AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 4, lines 9-15 with the following amended paragraph:

According to this technique, the decoding method is done step-by-step where each bit is decoded independently by a simple decoder working on hard decisions but where the output of the decoder (i) may make a correction on the bits at the input of the decoder (i+1). Figure 3 gives a block diagram of this type of decoder, where m = 2. Given $(r_1, r_2, ..., r_n)$ the block 31 of n symbols received at the input of the decoder, the decoding operation is performed in the following successive steps: